CONSTITUTION

—AND—

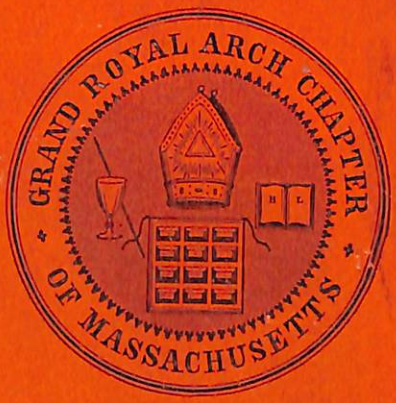
PARTICULAR REGULATIONS

—OF THE—

Grand Royal Arch Chapter,

—OF THE—

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.



JUNE, 1884.

PRINTED BY
C. M. A. TWITCHELL, 50 Bromfield St., Boston.

CONSTITUTION

—AND—

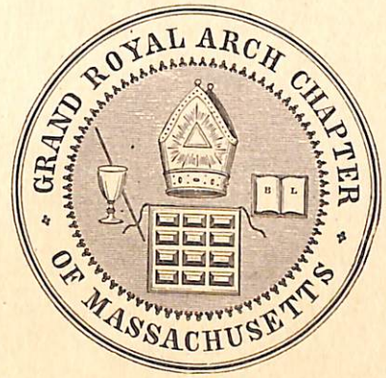
PARTICULAR REGULATIONS

—OF THE—

Grand Royal Arch Chapter,

—OF THE—

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

JUNE, 

1884.

PRINTED BY
C. M. A. TWITCHELL, 50 BROMFIELD ST., BOSTON.

CONSTITUTION

AND

PARTICULAR REGULATIONS

OF THE

Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Massachusetts.

CONSTITUTION.

The Officers and Members of the GRAND ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, for the better government and regulation of themselves and of the CHAPTERS under their jurisdiction, do ordain and establish the following General and Particular Regulations:

General Regulations.

ARTICLE I.

This Grand Royal Arch Chapter shall consist of the folfowing Officers and members, whose rank and title shall be as herein set forth, to wit: —

1. M. E. Grand High Priest.
2. R. E. Deputy Grand High Priest.
3. R. E. Grand King.
4. R. E. Grand Scribe.
5. M. E. Past Grand High Priests.
6. R. E. Past Deputy Grand High Priests.
7. R. E. Past Grand Kings.
8. R. E. Past Grand Scribes.
9. R. E. Grand Treasurer.
10. R. E. Grand Secretary.

11. R. E. District Deputy Grand High Priests.
12. E. & Rev. Grand Chaplains.
13. E. Grand Captain of the Host.
14. E. Grand Lecturers.
15. E. Grand Principal Sojourner.
16. E. Grand Royal Arch Captain.
17. E. Grand Master of the Veils.
18. E. Grand Stewards.
19. Companion Grand Tyler.

All of whom, together with the Excellent High Priests, Kings, Scribes, and proxies of Chapters, shall be entitled to vote as members of this Grand Chapter, the Grand Tyler excepted.

ARTICLE II.

The Grand Royal Arch Chapter shall hold four Convocations in a year, to wit: on the Tuesday next preceding the second Wednesday in March, June, September and December, of which the Convocation in December shall be the annual Convocation, and the time for the choice of officers, of whom the Grand High Priest, Deputy Grand High Priest, King, Scribe, Treasurer, and Secretary shall be elected by ballot, and the others shall be appointed by the Grand High Priest, so chosen; all of whom, if present, shall be duly installed on that day, or at such other time as the Grand Chapter shall designate; and if any of said officers shall be absent at the time of his election or appointment, it shall be the duty of the Grand Secretary to forward him due notice thereof, with a request that he would signify his acceptance or refusal in writing, within twenty days at least preceding the next regular Convocation of the Grand Chapter; and should any of said officers decline accepting the office assigned him, or neglect to give notice thereof within the time aforesaid, then such office shall be deemed vacant, and filled at the next regular Convocation of said Grand Chapter.

And all other vacancies of office, by resignation or otherwise, shall be filled at the regular Convocation next succeeding the same. And all Convocations of the Grand Chapter shall hereafter be holden in Boston.

ARTICLE III.

All Grand Officers, at the time of their installation, shall make the following declaration: "I, A. B., do solemnly promise and swear that I will support and maintain the Constitution of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Massachusetts, and that of the General Grand Chapter of the United States."

ARTICLE IV.

In case of the absence of the Grand High Priest, Deputy Grand High Priest, Grand King, and Grand Scribe, it shall be the duty of the oldest past officer of those grades respectively to preside; and in case of the absence of all the past officers, the High Priest of the oldest Chapter present shall preside.

ARTICLE V.

No person shall be eligible to the office of Grand High Priest, Deputy Grand High Priest, Grand King, Grand Scribe, Grand Treasurer, Grand Secretary, or District Deputy Grand High Priest, unless he be a Past High Priest of a subordinate Chapter, under the jurisdiction of some Grand Chapter, or has heretofore held one of the aforesaid offices in this Grand Chapter; and no one of the officers here enumerated shall, during his continuance in office, be High Priest, King, or Scribe of a subordinate Chapter.

No person shall be eligible to an office in this Grand Chapter except he be a permanent member thereof, or a member of a subordinate Chapter under this jurisdiction.

No person shall be eligible to the office of Grand High Priest for more than three successive years.

ARTICLE VI.

The Grand High Priest shall form the Chapters under this jurisdiction into districts, for each of which a District Deputy Grand High Priest shall be annually appointed, who shall visit the Chapters in his district and inspect their Charter, By-Laws, Records, and mode of work, once a year at least, and before the annual Convocation of the Grand Chapter in December. He shall see that the returns of the several Chapters in the district are properly made out, and collect the amount due thereon from each Chapter, and pay all moneys so collected to the Grand Treasurer, on or before the first day of December in each year.

The Grand High Priest shall appoint one or more discreet and well-informed Companions, to be styled Grand Lecturer, who shall be commissioned by the Grand High Priest, with the seal of the Grand Chapter affixed, and attested by the Grand Secretary, which commission shall be in force until the conclusion of the annual Convocation in December, and no longer.

It shall be the duty of the Grand Lecturer, when requested by any subordinate Chapter, and directed by the Grand High Priest, to visit any Chapter under this jurisdiction, and teach them the lectures and mode of work; and the Chapter so employing him shall make him a reasonable compensation for his services.

He shall keep a record of his proceedings, and submit it to the inspection of the Grand High Priest when required, and shall make no alterations in the lectures without permission of the Grand Chapter. The system established by the Grand Chapter, and taught by the Grand Lecturer, shall be the standard for the regulation of all Chapters under this jurisdiction.

ARTICLE VII.

A committee of three shall be appointed at the annual Convocation, immediately after the installation of the Grand Officers, to be styled the *Committee of Finance*, whose duty

it shall be to examine and audit all bills presented against the Grand Chapter, together with the Grand Treasurer's and Secretary's accounts and books, and report at the annual Convocation in December, previously to the election of officers.

ARTICLE VIII.

Every petition for a warrant to open a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons within the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter, shall be signed by at least nine regular Royal Arch Masons, within the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter, which petition shall be accompanied by a certificate from the Chapter within this Commonwealth nearest the place where the new Chapter is intended to be opened, vouching for the moral character and masonic abilities of the petitioners, and recommending to the Grand Chapter to grant them a warrant; and if it shall meet the approbation of this Grand Chapter, the Grand High Priest shall grant his dispensation for the same, to be in force not exceeding twelve months, and during that time the members of said Chapter shall be examined, with regard to their ability to perform the requisite duties, by a committee to be appointed by the Grand High Priest; said committee to report to the Grand High Priest; and if their report meet his approbation, he shall, within the year aforesaid, unless a further time is granted by a vote of the Grand Chapter, appoint a time for the consecration of said Chapter and installation of the officers, and direct the Secretary to make out a charter, to bear even date with the dispensation; and said Chapter shall pay fifty cents per month for the time it shall have held its warrant.

And if a majority of the members of any Chapter, at a regular Convocation notified for that purpose, shall vote to remove their Chapter to any other place, the Grand Chapter may sanction and authorize such removal, if recommended by the Chapter nearest to the place to which the Chapter is proposed to be removed.

The fees for the charter shall be paid upon receiving the dispensation.

Before a charter for a new Chapter shall be issued by this Grand Body, the Grand High Priest shall be furnished with satisfactory evidence that the petitioners therefor intend to become members of the same, and they shall present dimits from the Chapter of their affiliation, or if they do not hold membership in any Chapter they shall present satisfactory certificates of their standing as Royal Arch Masons; and before they shall be entitled to the privileges of membership in the new Chapter they must have signed the By-Laws thereof. And any one neglecting this duty for the space of six months, shall be subject to ballot for membership in the same manner as is usual for companions coming by dimit.

ARTICLE IX.

No warrant shall be granted by this Grand Chapter for holding a Mark Masters', Past Masters', or Most Excellent Masters' Lodge, independent of a Royal Arch Chapter.

ARTICLE X.

The fees for a warrant for holding a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, and opening Lodges of Mark Masters, Past Masters, and Most Excellent Masters, shall be ninety dollars; and the Secretary shall be paid by the petitioners five dollars for his services in executing the charter.

ARTICLE XI.

The several Chapters under the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter shall pay for the support thereof, into the hands of the Grand Treasurer, annually, the sum of six dollars; and also three dollars for every candidate advanced to the degree of Mark Master Mason in such Chapter, and they shall be entitled to one diploma for each candidate exalted.

ARTICLE XII.

Every Chapter of Royal Arch Masons under this jurisdiction shall be represented by its High Priest, King, and

Scribe, or either of them, in person or by their respective proxies, at every Convocation of the Grand Chapter. If any Chapter under this jurisdiction shall fail to assemble once in any year, or shall neglect to be represented in this Grand Chapter for two years in succession, or shall fail for two successive years to make a return of its officers and members and pay its dues to this Grand Chapter, then, and in either case of delinquency, the said Chapter shall forfeit to the use of this Grand Chapter its charter, with its records, jewels, regalia and furniture, together with its monetary and all other property of every description.

ARTICLE XIII.

No candidate shall be exalted to the degree of Royal Arch Mason by any Chapter under this jurisdiction for a less sum than twenty-five dollars, and no candidate shall be balloted for until said fee shall be paid, and no note of hand shall be taken by any Chapter for the fees, or any part of the fees, due on the exaltation or advancement of any candidate.

ARTICLE XIV.

The application of any and every candidate, who is a resident in this Commonwealth, for exaltation in any Chapter under this jurisdiction, shall be made in writing, and signed by the applicant, and be in the following form, to wit:

To the Most Excellent High Priest, King, Scribe, and Companions of ——— Chapter.

I, ... having received the degree of Master Mason in ..... Lodge, under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of ....., having the good of the Craft at heart, and being desirous of obtaining further light in Masonry, do fraternally offer myself a Candidate for the degrees conferred in your Chapter. Should my petition be granted, I promise a cheerful compliance with all the forms and usages of the fraternity.

My residence is in ....., occupation .....
I have ..... before applied for said degrees to
..... R.·. A.·. Chapter.

(The candidate will state the entire facts. If he has NEVER before applied he shall insert the words NEVER and ANY respectively in the blank spaces above. If he has before applied, he shall state the NUMBER of times, and the NAME of the Chapter or Chapters respectively in the blank spaces.)

Dated at 18

Signed .....

And said application shall be accompanied by the recommendation of at least three Royal Arch Masons, and shall be in the following form, to wit :

We, the subscribers, hereby certify that we are acquainted with ———, named in the above application, and believe him to be of regular and upright conduct, fair fame, sober life, and good moral character. We do, therefore, recommend him as a Master Mason, worthy and well qualified to be exalted to the Sublime Degree of Royal Arch Mason.

Dated at ——, 18

Signed,

——— ———.
——— ———.
——— ———.

And said application shall lay over one Convocation of said Chapter at least, for the consideration of the members thereof, and no ballot shall be taken upon the application of any candidate within fourteen days from the Convocation at which he was proposed, unless in cases of emergency, when a dispensation from the Grand High Priest, Deputy Grand High Priest, Grand King, or Grand Scribe, shall be obtained ; and no candidate shall be received or admitted to the degrees without a unanimous vote in his favor.

ARTICLE XV.

A candidate for the degrees shall make application to the Chapter in the town or city where the applicant resides, if

there be a Chapter therein ; but if there be none, he shall apply to the Chapter nearest to his residence ; and the application of a person residing in a town or city where there is a Chapter shall not be received in any other town or city without the written consent and recommendation of the High Priest, King, and Scribe of the Chapter or Chapters in the town or city where the applicant resides ; *provided, however*, that where there are more than two Chapters in the town or city, the consent and recommendation of two shall be sufficient.

ARTICLE XVI.

No Chapter under this jurisdiction shall receive for exaltation to the sublime degrees a candidate who is resident in another of the United States, where Grand or subordinate Chapters are established agreeably to the rules and regulations of the General Grand Chapter, except by the consent of the Chapter nearest the place of residence of said applicant.

ARTICLE XVII.

An applicant to any Chapter under this jurisdiction for the sublime degrees, who is a foreigner, or not a resident of any of the United States where Chapters are held agreeably to the regulations of the General Grand Chapter of said States, must have his application written and signed by himself and four members of the Chapter to which he applies for exaltation, or by himself and six members of other Chapters under this jurisdiction. And any worthy companion from without the jurisdiction of the United States who may present himself as a Royal Arch Mason, and produce satisfactory evidence of his having received that degree, each and every Chapter under the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter have liberty, and they are hereby authorized, to confer the degrees of Mark Master, Past Master, and Most Excellent Master on such companions (who have not heretofore received them), to the end that they may be healed,

and thereby become regular Royal Arch Masons, free of charge; and the subordinate Chapter conferring said degrees free of charge shall be exempt from paying any dues therefor.

ARTICLE XVIII.

No candidate whose application may be rejected in any Chapter under this jurisdiction shall be exalted in any Chapter other than that to which he first applied within six months after such rejection, nor without a recommendation from nine members of said Chapter, of whom the High Priest, King and Scribe shall be three, and the consent of the Chapter, and it shall be the duty of every Chapter under this jurisdiction to communicate all rejections of candidates to this Grand Chapter.

ARTICLE XIX.

No Royal Arch Mason shall be admitted a member of any Chapter under this jurisdiction, unless he shall have regularly received the degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, Master Mason, Mark Master Mason, Past Master, Most Excellent Master, and Royal Arch Mason.

ARTICLE XX.

No Royal Arch Mason shall be a member of two separate and distinct Chapters under this jurisdiction at one and the same time.

ARTICLE XXI.

No Chapter or assembly of Royal Arch Masons, that may hereafter be formed within the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter, shall be deemed legal without the sanction of a warrant from this Grand Chapter. Masonic communication, either public or private, is hereby strictly forbidden between any Chapter or Lodge under this jurisdiction, or between any member of said Chapter or Lodge under this jurisdiction, and any Chapter or Lodge that may be so illegally

opened, or either of their members, or any person exalted or advanced in such illegal Chapter or Lodge.

The punishment for breach of any part of this article shall be expulsion and exclusion from the benefits of Royal Arch Masonry.

ARTICLE XXII.

The High Priest, King, and Scribe of any Chapter under the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter, when not able to attend the Convocations, shall appoint their proxies by a commission signed with their names, to which their seal shall be affixed; which commission shall continue in force only during the year for which the said High Priest, King or Scribe was elected.

And said proxies shall not represent more than one Chapter at any one Convocation.

Particular Regulations.

ARTICLE I.

At every Convocation of this Grand Chapter, previous to the transaction of any business, the Chapter shall be opened in due form.

ARTICLE II.

The officers of subordinate Chapters, who attend the Convocation of the Grand Chapter, must appear clothed in their proper jewels.

ARTICLE III.

Every officer of a Chapter under this jurisdiction, who, as such, has a right to sit and vote in this Grand Chapter, shall, in case of his absence at any Convocation, have a right to be represented therein by his proxy, duly appointed; provided, however, sueh proxy shall be a member in good standing of the Chapter which he is thus commissioned to represent.

The form of letters of proxy shall be in substance as follows, viz:

To the Most Excellent Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Massachusetts:

BE IT KNOWN,

That pursuant to the authority given me by the Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Massachusetts, I, —— ——, of —— —— Chapter, do, by these presents, constitute and appoint Companion ——, of——, to represent me at the Convocations of said Grand Chapter, to be holden at Boston, on the —— day of ——, [or, for the present Masonic year, as the case may be.]

Confirming the acts of said Companion in his capacity aforesaid, I pray that he may enjoy all the privileges and protection to which I am entitled.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal, this —— day of ——, A. L. ——.

ARTICLE IV.

Every member of this Grand Chapter, and representative thereto, must appear properly clothed with the badges of a Royal Arch Mason.

ARTICLE V.

No person shall be admitted as a visitor at any Convocation of this Grand Chapter, unless some member of said Grand Chapter, or Companion of right sitting in the same, will of his own knowledge declare that such person desirous of being admitted has regularly received all the degrees appertaining to Royal Arch Masonry, conferred by the Chapters under this jurisdiction.

ARTICLE VI.

Whereas it is essentially important that the mode of working in the several Chapters under the jurisdiction of this Grand Chapter should be uniformly the same; therefore, the better to accomplish this desirable object, it shall be the duty of the Grand High Priest, to cause the Grand Lecturers, with such assistants as they may require, to rehearse the lectures and exemplify the work of the several Chapter degrees annually, on the day of the annual Convocation in December, that the officers of the several Chapters may be fully acquainted therewith, and dispense the knowledge of them in a uniform and regular manner in their several Chapters.

ARTICLE VII.

The accounts of the Treasurer and Secretary, at the annual Convocation in December, shall be audited, and for their services they shall receive such compensation as this Grand Chapter may deem adequate.

ARTICLE VIII.

The High Priest, or presiding officer of a Chapter, when notified of the intended official visit of the District Deputy

Grand High Priest, shall convene his Chapter, receive him as the Representative of the Grand Chapter, resign the chair to him while making his official visit, submit to his inspection the Charter, By-Laws, Records, Book of Marks, and mode of work, and deliver to him the Returns of the Chapter, and the dues to the Grand Chapter.

The Chapters under this jurisdiction shall make an annual return to their District Deputy Grand High Priests of their officers and members, of all candidates marked, passed, acknowledged, and exalted, agreeably to the form established by this Grand Chapter; for which purpose suitable blanks shall be furnished.

Each Chapter shall pay to this Grand Chapter, for every candidate admitted to the degree of Mark Master, three dollars; and for any companion having reeceived a portion of the degrees in another jurisdiction, fifty cents for the Past Master's degree, fifty cents for the Most Excellent Master's degree, and one dollar for the Royal Arch degree.

ARTICLE IX.

When any member of a Chapter under this jurisdiction shall be accused of any offence which, if proved against him, would subject him to suspension or expulsion, the proceedings in the premises shall be conducted agreeably to the following rules:

1*st.* The accusations shall be made in writing, under the signature of a Royal Arch Mason, and given in charge to the Secretary of the Chapter, who, under the direction of the High Priest, shall serve, or cause the accused to be served with an attested copy of the charges, fourteen days at least previous to the time appointed for his examination: *provided* the residence of the offending companion shall be known, and shall be within the distance of twenty miles of the place where the Chapter is located. If the residence of the accused be at a greater distance than twenty miles, but within the State, then and in that case a summons to appear and show cause, forwarded to him by mail or other

conveyance, twenty days at least before the time of trial, shall be considered sufficient service. If the residence of the delinquent be unknown, the Chapter may proceed to examine the charges *ex parte.*

2*d.* The examination of the charges shall be had in a Chapter specially notified and convened for the purpose,—at which no visitors shall be admitted, except as counsel or witnesses.

3*d.* The accused may select his own counsel, and the witnesses shall testify on their honor; hearsay evidence shall be excluded.

4*th.* The question, "Is the accused guilty or not guilty?" shall be distinctly put to each member of the Chapter by name, commencing with the youngest member. The answer shall be given standing, and in a distinct and audible manner. The Secretary shall record the answer as given.

5*th.* If the verdict be suspension or expulsion, the proceedings shall be sent up at the ensuing Convocation of this Grand Chapter for examination.

6*th.* A sentence of expulsion shall not take effect until confirmed by this Grand Chapter; but shall operate as a suspension of the delinquent.

7*th.* A companion feeling himself aggrieved by the decision of a subordinate Chapter shall have the right of an appeal to this Grand Chapter, he having given due and timely notice to the subordinate Chapter of his intention so to appeal from its decision.

8*th.* Whenever this Grand Chapter shall reverse or abrogate the decision of a subordinate Chapter, suspending or expelling a companion, and shall restore him to the benefits and privileges of Masonry, he shall not thereby be restored to membership within the body from which he was suspended or expelled, without its unanimous consent.

9*th.* In all respects, other than those here specified, the proceedings shall be conducted agreeably to the regulations of ancient craft Masonry.

ARTICLE X.

Each Chapter under this jurisdiction shall have a seal, which shall be affixed to all communications made to this Grand Chapter, and to all credentials which may be given by such Chapter to any member thereof.

ARTICLE XI.

Whenever the by-laws of any Chapter require the names of candidates to be inserted in the notifications, a dispensation from a Grand Officer does not render such insertion unnecessary.

ARTICLE XII.

All motions made in the Grand Chapter, the determinations of which may require to be recorded, shall be handed in writing to the Secretary, who shall present them to the presiding officer for the time being.

ARTICLE XIII.

No vote of the Grand Chapter shall be reconsidered by a less number of voters than were present at the passing of the same.

ARTICLE XIV.

There shall be a Board of Trustees of the Funds of the Grand Chapter, consisting of the Grand Treasurer, and two companions to be elected by ballot for the term of three years, and to constitute, during that time, a permanent part of the Board ; and provided a vacancy shall occur by death, resignation, or any cause, it shall be reported to the Grand Chapter at the next quarterly Convocation, at which time the vacancy shall be filled. The Board of Trustees thus constituted shall be styled, "The Trustees of the Funds of the Grand Chapter of Massachusetts."

ARTICLE XV.

This Constitution shall not be altered or amended, unless such alteration or amendment be proposed, in writing, at one regular Convocation of the Grand Chapter, and at a subsequent regular Convocation receive the approval of two-thirds of the members then present.